

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TIFFANY LEWIS,

Plaintiff,

-v-

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL  
SECURITY,

Defendant.

23-CV-0540 (JPO)

ORDER

J. PAUL OETKEN, District Judge:

The Clerk of Court shall notify the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of New York of the filing of this *pro se* case, brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), for which the filing fee has been waived. In accordance with this District's Standing Order governing challenges to denials of social security benefits (*see In re: Mots. J. Pleadings Social Sec. Cases*, 16-mc-171), the following briefing schedule applies:

- **Within 90 days of service**, the Commissioner must serve and file the Electronic Certified Administrative Record (e-CAR), which constitutes the Commissioner's answer, or otherwise move against the complaint.
- If Plaintiff wishes to file a motion for judgment on the pleadings, Plaintiff must do so **within 60 days** of the date on which the e-CAR was filed. The motion must contain a full recitation of the relevant facts and a full description of the underlying administrative proceeding.
- The Commissioner must file an answer brief **within 60 days** of the filing of Plaintiff's motion.
- Plaintiff may file a reply **within 21 days** thereafter.

In addition, by separate Order today, the Court is referring this case to the assigned Magistrate Judge for a report and recommendation on any motion for judgment on the pleadings.

Magistrate Judges are judges selected by the District Judges to serve for terms of eight years. They are very experienced and highly qualified.

To conserve resources, to promote judicial efficiency, and in an effort to achieve a faster disposition of this matter, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties must discuss whether they are willing to consent, under 28 U.S.C § 636(c), to conducting all further proceedings before a Magistrate Judge. If the parties consent to having the Magistrate Judge decide the case, the Magistrate Judge will replace the District Judge, which will speed up the resolution of the case as only one judge will be involved instead of two. Any appeal from a Magistrate Judge's decision goes directly to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, just as an appeal from a District Judge's decision would be. If the parties do not consent to having the Magistrate Judge decide the case, on the other hand, then the Magistrate Judge will issue a report and recommendation on any motion for judgment on the pleadings, and the District Judge will consider any objections either party has to that report before a final judgment is entered.

If both parties consent to proceed before a Magistrate Judge, counsel for the defendant must, within two weeks of the date on which Defendant enters an appearance, email to Oetken\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov a fully executive Notice, Consent, and Reference of a Civil Action of a Civil Action to a Magistrate Judge form, which is attached to this order and also available at <https://nysd.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/AO-3.pdf>. If the court approves that form, all further proceedings will then be conducted before a Magistrate Judge rather than before me.

If either party does not consent to conducting all further proceedings before a Magistrate Judge, the parties must file a joint letter, within two weeks on which Defendant enters an appearance, advising the Court that the parties do not consent, but without disclosing the identity

of the party or parties who do not consent. If you do not consent to having a Magistrate Judge decide your case, there will be no adverse consequences.

The Clerk of Court is directed to mail a copy of this order to Plaintiff.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 31, 2023  
New York, New York



---

J. PAUL OETKEN  
United States District Judge